



# STATE OF CONNECTICUT

## PSYCHIATRIC SECURITY REVIEW BOARD

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**Ellen Lachance, Executive Director**

**Before the Judiciary Committee**

**February 13, 2013**

Good afternoon Senator Coleman, Representative Fox and distinguished members of the Judiciary Committee. I am Ellen Lachance, the Executive Director of the Psychiatric Security Review Board. I appear before you today to request the committee's support of **SB 828 An Act Concerning Sexual Offender Registration Requirements for Certain Persons Granted Temporary Leave by the Psychiatric Security Review Board.**

The Board, composed of six members, appointed by the Governor for their expertise, has jurisdiction, as ordered by Superior Court, over all persons found not guilty of a crime by reason of mental disease or defect. The Board orders the confinement and treatment of those individuals to the Department of Mental Health and Addiction Services or to the Department of Developmental Services. The Board's statutory mission is the protection of society.

There are currently 148 acquittees under the Board's jurisdiction and 23 are sex offenders. When appropriate, acquittees transition to the community through Board approved Temporary Leaves, followed by Conditional Release. On Temporary Leave, individuals may have access to the community in phases, ranging anywhere from a few hours to residing in the community overnight. While on Temporary Leave, treatment and oversight of the acquittee remains the responsibility of Connecticut Valley Hospital. Upon successful completion of Temporary Leave, acquittees progress to Conditional Release. On Conditional Release, the acquittee is discharged from Connecticut Valley Hospital (CVH) and the responsibility for treatment and supervision shifts to community providers.

Currently, acquittees who are sex offenders are required to register with Connecticut's Sex Offender Registry upon discharge from CVH to Conditional Release status. The Board and the Department of Emergency Services and Public Protection wish to amend the Sex Offender Registry statutes to broaden the definition of discharge, as defined in C.G.S. §54-250(10), to include Temporary Leave. This change would require acquittees to register with the Sex Offender Registry as soon as they are permitted overnight access to the community on either Temporary Leave or a Conditional Release. This will ensure accurate information is available regarding an acquittee's placement status.

The Board has a significant role in safeguarding Connecticut's citizens, while at the same time, ensuring appropriate treatment services for those under its jurisdiction. The Committee's favorable action on the recommended change will ensure the Board acquittees on Temporary Leave are in compliance with the sex offender registration requirements.